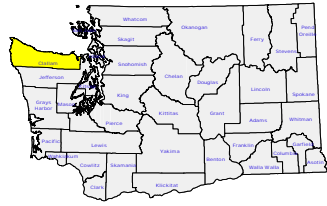


Rural County in Washington Prohibits Smoking on County-Owned Properties

Rachel Anderson, M.Ed., Tobacco Prevention and Control Specialist, Clallam County Health and Human Services, Port Angeles, Washington



Clallam County Washington is located on the North Olympic Peninsula, 80 miles west of Seattle and 20 miles south of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.
County population: 65,900 residents. About 19% of adult residents smoke.

BACKGROUND:

People frequently smoked near the entrances to Clallam County Courthouse, Juvenile and Family Services, and other county-owned/leased facilities. Community members were forced to walk through secondhand smoke in order to access services and conduct business. There was an unenforceable courtesy policy that requested no smoking within 50 feet of entrances.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

To pass an ordinance prohibiting smoking on all Clallam County-owned/leased properties in order to protect the health of the public from the effects of secondhand smoke.

RESULTS:

October 19, 2004, Clallam County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed Ordinance 761, Chapter 19.05, prohibiting smoking on Clallam County-owned/leased properties unless in designated areas.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Keep lines of communication open when working with multiple entities.
- People have been respectful and smoke in designated areas.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- Clallam County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) • Clallam County Administrator
- Clallam County Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) • Clallam County Board of Health (BOH) • Clallam County Prevention Works! Community Coalition (PW!)
- Clallam County Health and Human Services (CCHHS) • Clallam County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney • Clallam County Department of Public Works • Clallam County Parks Board • Clallam County Fair Board • Clallam County Sheriff • Clallam County District Court Judge • Clallam County Department of Personnel and Risk Management • Port Angeles Police Chief



T I M E L I N E

2003: The Ordinance Process Begins

Spring 2004: Draft Ordinance Presented to County Boards

Summer 2004: Community Meetings and Public Hearing

Fall and Winter 2004: Final Ordinance Adopted and in Effect

July 2003

- Began researching other smoking related county laws in Washington State

September 2003

- Discussed idea of ordinance with Clallam County Prevention Works! Community Coalition; asked for and received support.

October 2003

- Discussed idea of ordinance with Clallam County Public Health Advisory Committee; asked for and received support.

November 2003 – February 2004

- Draft ordinance written by Rachel Anderson, Tobacco Prevention and Control Specialist. Reviewed by Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Revisions to draft made based on attorney's advice.

March 2004

- Presented draft ordinance to Clallam County Board of Health; asked for and received support.
- Presented draft ordinance to Clallam County Board of Commissioners; asked for and received support.

April 2004

- Met with Clallam County Parks Board. While Board was less than enthusiastic towards the work, they recommended to the Clallam County Board of Commissioners that smoking be permitted in County parks and on county trails. The Parks Board was concerned about an increase in fire hazard if an ordinance were to be passed.
- Met with Clallam County Fair Board. The Board was concerned about a loss of revenue, and recommended to the Clallam County Board of Commissioners that smoking be permitted at the County Fairgrounds.
- Met with Clallam County Sheriff, who was supportive of the ordinance.
- Met with the Clallam County Employee Safety Committee to discuss ordinance, which they supported.

June 2004

- Several meetings with the Clallam County Board of Commissioners, Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services Management Team, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, and a representative from local labor union.
- Local labor union representatives cited change in working conditions for smokers and negotiated a designated smoking area that included a covered shelter.

July 2004

- Met with Port Angeles Police Department Chief who supported the ordinance and was interested in developing a similar ordinance for Port Angeles City Hall after County ordinance was approved and implemented.
- Proposal to Clallam County Board of Commissioners that Clallam County's Employee Wellness Program include nicotine cessation assistance, including over-the-counter NRT, attending and completing cessation classes from an approved provider, seeing a licensed acupuncturist or licensed hypnotherapist.

August 2004

- Public hearing for ordinance; members from Clallam County Prevention Works! Community Coalition, Clallam County Public Health Advisory Committee and community attended. All were in favor and there was no opposition, but requested some language revisions to the ordinance. Commissioner Mike Chapman was very interested in re-approaching the Clallam County Fair Board to negotiate smoking issues at the Fairgrounds.

September 2004

- Commissioner Mike Chapman and Rachel Anderson, Tobacco Prevention & Control Specialist, met with Clallam County Fair Board which concluded that there would be Smoke-Free Zones at the Clallam County Fairgrounds.

October 2004

- **10/19/04, Clallam County Board of Commissioners unanimously passes Ordinance 761, Chapter 19.05, prohibiting smoking on Clallam County-owned/leased properties unless in designated areas to go into effect in 60 days.**

October 2004

- Committee comprised of staff from Clallam County Health and Human Services, Department of Public Works, and the County Administrator determined designated smoking areas.

November 2004

- In collaboration with Department of Public Works, developed signage notifying the public of the ordinance.

December 2004

- **12/19/04, Ordinance went into effect.**

December 2004

- Presented ordinance to Clallam County Department Heads and Elected Officials for them to notify employees.

February 2005

- Signs notifying public of ordinance in place on Clallam County properties.

Contact:

Rachel Anderson, M.Ed.
Tobacco Prevention and Control Specialist
Clallam County Health and Human Services
223 East Fourth Street, Suite 14
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-565-2608
Fax: 360-417-2583
randerson@co.clallam.wa.us